

More Congestion on Local Roads Around Bay Area

- Each of the four Bay Area counties that surveyed local roadway congestion in 2005 reported that the share of free-flowing roads during afternoon commute hours had declined relative to 2003. In all four counties, the percentage of roadways rated as “uncongested” decreased and the share of “moderately congested” roads increased. For the most part, though, the share of “severely congested” roads held steady or even decreased.
- Three counties — Alameda, San Francisco and Santa Clara — typically collect local congestion data in even-numbered years and thus did not report new figures in 2005. Based on 2004 data, Santa Clara County remains the only Bay Area county in which a majority (51 percent) of local roadways are classified as either moderately or severely congested. Congested roads typically account for about one-third of monitored roadway mileage in most other counties.
- Contra Costa County saw the share of moderately congested roads increase by seven percentage points in 2005, while the share of severely congested roads declined by four percentage points. In all, 75 percent of the monitored roads in Contra Costa County were rated as uncongested, 24 percent earned a moderately congested designation, and just one percent had severe congestion.
- Changes in local roadway congestion in San Mateo and Solano counties were less marked. In San Mateo County, the share of moderately congested roads increased to 20 percent in 2005 from 17 percent, while the share of severely congested roads fell to 2 percent from 3 percent. In Solano County, the share of moderately congested roads increased just 1 percentage point from 23 percent in 2003 to 24 percent in 2005.
- Marin County reported a big increase in the percentage of roads described as moderately or severely congested in 2005. But this is due in large part to a change in the county’s study method, with local roadway congestion in 2005 monitored only in the peak direction of travel. In absolute terms, the number of road miles described as moderately or severely congested increased just slightly, from three miles in 2003 to 3.8 miles in 2005.

Local Roadway Congestion by County¹ During the P.M. Peak Commute Period

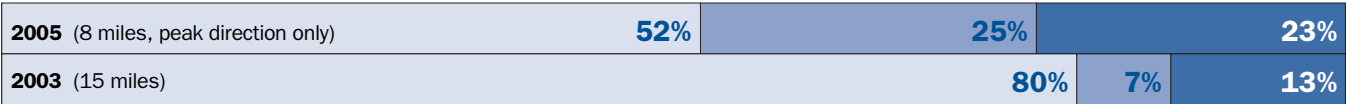
Uncongested Moderately Congested Severely Congested

COUNTIES WITH UPDATED DATA FOR 2005

Contra Costa



Marin



San Mateo



Solano



COUNTIES WITH DATA FROM PRIOR YEARS²

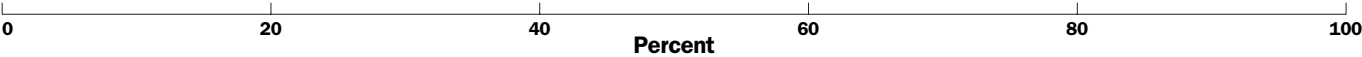
Alameda



San Francisco



Santa Clara



Source: County congestion monitoring reports

¹ Selected road segments and/or intersections; Napa and Sonoma counties do not monitor local roadway congestion.

² Current (2005) data is not available for Alameda, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties.